

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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O 310714Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 447

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA TWELVE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRESIDENT MARCOS MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH

1. HERewith THE SPEECH GIVEN MEMORIAL DAY BY PRESIDENT MARCOS. BEGIN TEXT. THERE IS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE BOSOM OF NATIONS FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF PEOPLE AND COUNTRY. FOR THE AMERICAN NATION, THIS IS HER SPECIAL DAY OF HOMAGE AND REMEMBRANCE.

2. TO BE INVITED HERE TODAY TO JOIN YOU IN MAKING THIS TRIBUTE TO YOUR HONORED WAR DEAD IS FOR MY COUNTRYMEN A PRICELESS GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD, FOR WE KNOW WELL THAT THIS DAY MEANS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, HAVING KNOWN OURSELVES THE IMPERISHABLE INHERITANCE OF MARTYRS IN THE CAUSE OF NATIONHOOD AND FREEDOM.

3. IN CONTEMPLATING THE MEMORY OF THESE FALLEN SOLDIERS, NO NATIONS CAN FAIL TO SHARE WITH AMERICA HER SENSE OF SORROW AND REMEMBERED GLOOM. YET BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS, THERE IS PERHAPS AN EVEN GREAT BOND, LARGER THAN SHARED SENTIMENT, SEALED AND ENRICHED BY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE

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TIES THAT AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS HAVE KNOWN TO MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY NOW. OURS HAS BEEN A LONG HISTORY OF RECIPROCITY AND SHARING, INDELIBLY MARKED BY THE EXPERIENCE OF FACING TOGETHER THE TRAGEDIES OF WAR IN SEVERAL BATTLEFIELDS.

4. ON THIS HALLOWED GROUNDS, AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS DIE

SIDE BY SIDE AS THEY HAD FOUGHT MANY YEARS AGO.

5. IT IS ALSO A PRIDE OF THE FILIPINO NATION THAT A MILLION OF OUR PEOPLE-ONE MILLION MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OUT OF A POPULATION THERE OF SEVENTEEN MILLION DIED FOR OUR IDEALS IN THAT WORLD WAR.

6. BOTH OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE KNOWN HOW TO DIE GENEROUSLY IN BATTLE, AND NEITHER HAS KNOWN ITS FEAR, FOR WE HAVE NOT HAD TO WAGE ANY UNJUST CAUSE AGAINST ANY NATION.

7. WHEN AN AMERICAN THEREFORE SPEAKS OF HOW THE DEEDS OF HIS FALLEN COUNTRYMEN HAVE TOUCHED HIS LIFE, AND BEQUEATHED HIM A RICH HERITAGE OF IDEALS AND TRADITIONS, WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHEREOF HE SPEAKS, FOR IN MANY WAYS HTAT IS ALSO PART OF OUR INHERITANCE.

8. AND WHAT NATION INDEED IN THIS CENTURY HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED BY AMERICA'S EXAMPLE? WHAT NATION HAS NOT BEEN DRAWN TO THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINS FOR WHICH MORE THAN A MILLION AMERICANS HAVE DIED IN BATTLE, AND MANY MORE WILL CERTAINLY FIGHT AGAIN IF IT BE DEMANDED OF THEM?

9. AMERICA MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD IN THE CRUCIBLE OF CRISIS-EXALTED SOMETIMES FOR HER INITIATIVES IN BUILDING GLOBAL PEACE AND PROGRESS, OR OVERCOME BY CRISIS LIKE VIETNAM OR WATERGATE - YET IN ONE THING SHE WILL ALWAYS REMAIN: A BEACON TOWARDS PROS-UNCLASSIFIED

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PERITY, TOWARDS GREATNESS, TOWARDS THE FUTURE.

10. IN THE PURUSIT OF THESE THINGS, THE AMERICAN NATION HAS HAD TO FACE MANY CRISES, STARTING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER HER DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, FOR A WHILE, SHE WAS TORN APART BY CIVIL WAR, IN HER VERY QUEST FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL HER PEOPLE. THEN, SHE HAS HAD TO FIGHT FIVE OTHER WARS, WHICH ALL TOLD HAVE COST MORE THAN A MILLION AMERICAN LIVES. BUT FROM THE SOIL OF CRISIS, SHE HAS ALWAYS FOUND REGENERATION AND NEW GREATNESS; AND THOUGH WE MAY ONCE AGAIN FIND HER IN CRISIS AS WE FIND ALL THE NATIONS IN CRISIS, WE CAN BE SURE THAT SHE WILL EMERGE FROM IT IN TACT AND FORWARD-LOOKING AS EVER.

11. YET FOR ALL THESE ATTRIBUTES OF AMERICA, IT SHOULD BE NO TRAGEDY THAT OTHER NATIONS, THGOUH ASPIRING TO THE SAME PRODIGIOUS FEATS OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, ARE NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFULLY LIKE HER. IT NEED NOT BE MOURNED

THAT ALTHOUGH ADMIRING THE WAYS OF AMERICA AND THE STRENGTH OF HER INSTITUTION OTHER NATIONS LESS FORTUNATE AND LESS STRONG, ARE IN SOME WAY DIFFERENT, EVEN IN THE WAY THEY AFFIRM THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF MAN. FOR THE FUTURE IS A VAST FRONTIER IN WHICH NATIONS, NOT UNLIKE YOUR EARLY WAVES OF MIGRANTS MUST CARVE OUT A NEW WORLD, AND IN THIS ADVENTURE, WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THEIR IDEAL.

12. MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AN ADMIRING FOREIGNER TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT. HIS NAME WAS ALEXANDER DE TOCQUEVILLE AND HIS WORK DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA, REMAINS AN OUTSTANDING CLASSIC STUDY OF AMERICAN LIFE. YET, WHILE ADMIRING THE WONDERFUL VITALITY AND VARIETY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION, HE STILL COULD WRITE: "I CONFESS THAT IN AMERICA, I SAW MORE THAN AMERICA; I SOUGHT THE IMAGE OF DEMOCRACY ITSELF WITH ITS INCLINATIONS, ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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CHARTERS, ITS PREJUDICES, AND ITS PASSIONS, IN ORDER TO LEARN WHAT WE HAVE TO FEAR OR HOPE FROM ITS PROGRESS."

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13. A PEOPLE, IT HAS BEEN SAID, "IS A MIRROR IN WHICH A TRAVELLER CONTEMPLATES HIS OWN IMAGE," IN A CERTAIN SNESE, THE DEVELOPING NATIONS LIKE OUR OWN ARE ALL TRAVEL- LERS IN THE CONTINENT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE, CONTEMPLATING

THEIR FUTURE BEFORE THE VAST IMAGE OF AMERICAN AFFLUENCE AND VITALITY. THE MIRROR REFLECTS TO US ASPIRATIONS, POSSIBILITIES, EXPECTATIONS, WORTHY LESSONS TO EITHER ADOPT OR AVOID. IN THE END, WHAT WE MUST FIND IS AN IMAGE OF OURSELVES, RAISED SOMEWHAT TO NEW POSSIBILITIES OF ACHIEVEMENT, BUT CIRCUMSCRIBED NONETHELESS BY OUR OWN ENVIRONMENT, OUR OWN CAPACITIES, AND OUR OWN ASPIRATIONS AS WELL AS OUR WEAKNESSES AND DEFICIENCIES.

14. THUS, IN THE NEW SOCIETY, THE REFORM OF ORGANIC SOCIAL STRUCTURES MUST IN THE END MEAN THE REFORM OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OR LACK OF THEM AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, SO THAT HE MAY REALIZE AND FULLFILL HIMSELF IN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM. MANY TIMES, WHAT MAY APPEAR MOST VISIBLE IN THESE EFFORTS IS THE EXERCISE OF POLITICAL WILL THAT WAS ONCE MISSING, THE TREMENDOUS ENERGY TO MOTIVATE LARGE MASSES OF PEOPLE WITHOUT WHICH THERE WOULD BE NO PROGRESS. THIS IS BECAUSE THE SUMMONS WE RECOGNIZE IS NOT UNLIKE THAT WHICH IMPELLED ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO PROSECUTE A CIVIL WAR IN ORDER TO MEND A DIVIDED

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AMERICAN NATION, OR THAT WHICH COMPELLED AN ASCENDANT EUROPE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE IN WESTERN SOCIETY THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

15. IT MAY APPEAR IN SOME INSTANCES THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS HAVE HAD TO SACRIFICE MORE THAN OTHERS IN ORDER TO ATTAIN REFORM. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CONSTRUE THIS AS EVIDENCE OF INTENTIONAL REPRESSION. PHILOSOPHERS AND STATESMEN HAVE LONG ACCEPTED THAT IT IS SOMETIMES INEVITABLE THAT IN A PERIOD OF CRISIS, SOME PEOPLE MUST BELIEVE CERTAIN FREEDOMS ARE BELIEVED ABRIDGED SO THAT THE LARGER FREEDOMS MAY BE PRESERVED, AND SO THAT THE SHIP OF THE NATION MAY STEER SAFELY AND SWIFTLY INTO CALMER WATERS, AND EACH OF THOSE SMALLER FREEDOMS MAY ULTIMATELY BE REGAINED. TO QUESTION TBIS IS TO COMPOUND THE CRISIS WITHOUT REALLY COMING TO THE RESCUE OF OUR EMBATTLED LIBERTIES. AS LINCOLN HIMSELF PUTS IT IN ONE OF HIS WELL-REMEMBERED STORIES, THE ILLINOIS LUMBERMAN, HAVING BEEN PUT TO CAPTAIN A STEAMER, HAS NOT TO GO THROUGH THE RAPIDS AND WHILE THE BOAT IS PLUNGING AND WALLowing ALONG THE BOILING CURRENTS, AND THE CAPTAIN'S VIGILANCE IS BEING EXERCISED TO THE UTMOST, IT IS WRONG FOR ANY BOY TO PULL HIS COAT-TAIL AND ASK HIM TO STOP THE STEAMER BECAUSE HIS APPLE HAD FALLEN OVERBOARD.

16. OBVIOUSLY THE STEAMER CANNOT STOP-- AND MUST NOT STOP, OTHERWISE IT IS THE END FOR ALL.

17. THIS NO DOUBT IS AN ARGUMENT THAT CAN BE CARRIED TO THE EXTREME, MAKING GOVERNMENT OBLIVIOUS OF ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING THE RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS IN THE NAME OF AN EFFICIENT AND UNDISTURBED SOCIAL ORDER. BUT IN OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE RESOLVED THAT A HEALTHY BALANCE IS ALWAYS KEPT, SO THAT NO APPLES ARE CARELESSLY LOST OVERBOARD, EVEN WHILE OUR STEAMER BATTLES THE CURRENTS. FOR MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, WE KNOW THAT EVERY FILIPINO

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TODAY LIVES FOR THE SAME IDEALS FOR WHICH SO MANY OF OUR COUNTRYMEN AND KIN, YOURS AND MINE DIED IN THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM; WE HAVE NOT BUILT A NATION FROM THEIR BLOOD, NOR FROM THE TEARS OF THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, NOR FROM THE DEATHLESS ENDURANCE OF ALL OUR COUNTRYMEN ONLY TO HOLD IN CAPTIVITY THOSE WHO WOULD WORSHIP ON THE ALTAR OF FREEDOM.

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18. OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE LIKE OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, IS AN IRREVOCABLE ONE. IT IS A COMMITMENT THAT HAS LED US INTO MAKING HARD AND CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS IN THE ORDERING OF OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF OUR INSTITUTIONS. YET WE SHUDDER LESS AT THE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD NOT ALWAYS BE UNDERSTOOD AND MORE AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT WHETHER UNDERSTAND (SIC) OR NOT

WITHOUT A WILL, OUR BEST MEANS MIGHT ULTIMATELY FAIL.

19. SOME OF THE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO TODAY, PARTICULARLY WHEN SEEN TO BE NEW AND UNFAMILIAR BY THOSE WHO DO NOT SHARE EITHER OUR FAITH OR OUR CONVICTION, WILL TEND TO DISTURB, EVEN THOSE WHO SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR CONDITIONS. LET NOT HASTY OR IGNOBLE JUDGEMENT CONDEMN. RATHER AS WE REACH OUT TO YOU FOR THE SECRET OF YOUR PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, REACH OUT ALSO FOR THE SECRET OF OUR TORMENT. FOR WE HAVE BEEN STUNTED BY WEAKNESS, HOBBOLED BY UNDER-DEVELOPMENT. OUR PATHS MAY SOMETIMES SEPARATE, BUT I AM SURE THEY SHALL CONVERGE AGAIN FOR OUR FINAL DESTINATION IS THE SAME: THE FULL RENDERING OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN WELFARE.

20. IN DISCHARGING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR PEOPLE,
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WE ARE RESOLVED NOT TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THE UNFAMILIARITY OF FORMS, PROVIDED THE DESIRED SUBSTANCE AND OBJECTIVE IS THERE, AND ALL OUR PEOPLE, RATHER THAN JUST A FEW, MAY SHARE IN IT. FOR AS THE WRITER JOHN GALSWORTHY HAS WRITTEN SOME 45 YEARS AGO, "WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO SMELL AND SEE, HEAR, FEEL AND TASTE OUR IDEAL, AS WELL; WE MUST KNOW BY PLAIN EVIDENCE THAT IT IS LIFTING HUMAN LIFE, AND IS THE HERITAGE OF ALL NOT MERELY OF THE REFINED AND THE LEISURED. THE BODY AND SOUL ARE ONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REAR EVOLUTION, AND REGRETTABLE IS ANY TERM SUGGESTIVE OF DIVORCE BETWEEN THEM. THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE IS AN UNMISTAKABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE PHRASE. OFFENSE AGAINST IT IS THE MODERN SATAN. AND WE CAN SAY, 'RETRO, SATANAS,' BY LEAVING EACH OF US, A TINY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE A LITTLE MORE DIGNIFIED, LOVELY AND LOVABLE THAN WE FOUND IT."

20. 200 YEARS AGO, YOUR ANCESTORS BEGAN A NEW IDEA WHICH WOULD BE BORNE BY THE WAVES OF THE SEAS, BY THE CONSTANCY OF THE WIND, BY THE LUCIDITY OF LIGHT TO THE FARTHEST CORNERS OF THE EARTH. IT MAY HAVE TAKEN THAT NEW IDEAS (SIC) AS MUCH TIME TO BLOOM AS IT HAD TAKEN THE OLD WORLD TO DIE. BUT THAT IDEA IS HERE, AND WE ARE ALL, STRONG AND WEAK, RICH AND POOR, OLD AND NEW, HELPING TO BUILD IT. THIS IS THE IDEA OF HUMAN DIGNITY, OF JUSTICE AND FULFILLMENT FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD; AN IDEA WHICH LIKE THE IMMORTAL FLAME THAT SHINES OVER THE GRAVES OF OVER A MILLION AMERICAN DEAD, GIVES US A PROMISE AND A CERTAINTY OF THE WORLD THAT WE MUST FINALLY WIN.

21. IT IS A WORLD WHERE EVERY MAN AND EVERY NATION WILL

AT LAST BE STRONG AND FREE, AND OUR SONS WILL NO LONGER
HAVE TO DIE, AS THEY HAVE DIED, IN DISTANT BATTLEFIELDS;
WHERE MEN WITH ARMS MAY NO LONGER REAP THE FIELD, NOR
"PLANT FRESH LAURELS WHERE THEY KILL;" AND WHERE PEACE, AT
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LAST PEACE AND JUSTICE WILL FINALLY RISE NOT FROM THE
REMEMBERED DEED OF HEROES, NO MATTER HOW GLORIOUS, BUT
FROM THE ORDINARY DEEDS OF ORDINARY MEN. END TEXT.
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